

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01014 190802Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /089 W  
-----191339Z 080406 /40

R 190715Z MAY 77  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7831  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1014

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR CH SV  
SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE RENEWS CLAIM TO SOVIET FAR EAST

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. A MAY 19 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE, COMMENTING ON A SOVIET BOOK ENTITLED "TALES OF THE AMUR", RENEWS THE PRC CHARGE THAT RUSSIA'S TSARIST RULERS ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED LARGE TRACTS OF CHINESE TERRITORY BEYOND THE AMUR AND USSR BORDERS IN THE 19TH CENTURY. THE ARTICLE, AUTHORED BY ONE MA CHANG-YI, CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIET BOOK, ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED AROUND 1950 AS A COLLECTION OF LOCAL FOLK TALES, WAS REISSUED IN 1975 WITH REVISIONS MAKING THE STORIES MUCH MORE EXPLICITLY ANTI-CHINESE. THE REVISIONS, ACCORDING TO THE AUTHOR, PAINT THE CHINESE AS AVARICIOUS MERCHANTS AND MANDUQINS WHO PLUNDER AND CHEAT THE LOCAL TRIBAL INHABITANTS UNTIL THEY ARE "LIBERATED" BY THE RUSSIANS.  
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2. IN DENOUNCING THE SOVIET BOOK, MA CLAIMS THAT THE AMUR AREA HAS BEEN CHINESE TERRITORY SINCE THE 8TH CENTURY TANG DYNASTY. CHINA, HE WRITES, HAD A REGULARLY CONSTITUTED OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA, AND SENT OUT MISSIONS TO COLLECT TRIBUTE FROM EVEN THE MOST REMOTE AREAS. IN FACT, HE STATES, THE SOVIET STORIES

THEMSELVES IN EFFECT RECOGNIZE HOW GREAT WAS THE  
CHINESE PRESENCE IN THE YEARS BEFORE THE RUSSIANS ARRIVED.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THE FIRST TIME  
SINCE MAO'S DEATH THAT AN ARTICLE OUTLINING BASIS  
FOR CHINA'S BORDER CLAIM HAS APPEARED IN DAILY PRESS.  
THE ARTICLE PRESENTS NO NEW ARGUMENTS, HOWEVER. IT DOES NOT MAKE  
EXPLICIT HOW MUCH OF THE AMUR TERRITORY IS CLAIMED BY THE PRC,  
NOR DOES THE AUTHOR ATTEMPT TO SHOW THAT THE LOCAL NON-RUSSIAN  
INHABITANTS OF THIS AREA WOULD PREFER CHINESE RULE. IT APPEARS  
TO REPRESENT ONLY ONE MORE SALVO IN RECENTLY EXCALATING WAR OF  
WORDS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS.  
DEAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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